

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
August 15, 2008
Wyoming State Fair Park, Douglas, Wyoming

Present: Gene Hardy, President
Joe Thomas, Vice President
Juan Reyes
Jack Corson
Jim Mickelson
Jim Bennage
Dave Graham
Patrick Zimmerer
John Hansen
Bridget Kukowski
Dr. Frank Galey, UW College of Agriculture Dean
John Etchepare, Director

Absent: Ryan Lance, Governor Freudenthal's Office
Dalin Winters

Staff: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Jason Fearneyhough, Deputy Director

The meeting was called to order by President Hardy. Those attending then introduced themselves.

Minutes

Juan Reyes made a motion to approve the July 7 and 8, 2008 minutes. The motion was seconded by Joe Thomas. Motion carried.

Patrick Zimmerer made a motion to approve the August 6, 2008 minutes. The motion was seconded by Jim Mickelson. Motion carried.

Conservation District Appointment

Joe Thomas made a motion to accept the resignation of Kurt Mellinger and appoint Paul Lewis to the Cody Conservation District. The motion was seconded by Dave Graham. Motion carried.

Wyoming Livestock Board Update

Dr. Logan spoke about Brucellosis and gave the members the timeline of when it was discovered and the deadline for the affected producer to make a decision as to whether he will depopulate or test out. He said the contact herds will be tested when they return from summer grazing. Dr. Logan is still hopeful they may get at least a two-week extension to the current deadline, allowing the producer time to get an appraisal before the producer has to make his decision.

Dr. Logan said the WLB may be able to help with the cost of the appraisal. APHIS doesn't want the expense if the producer doesn't opt to depopulate and the producer doesn't want to do it until he knows the value of the compensation. He also said the loss of the Brucellosis free status may take as long as 30-60 days, but sanctions are already being placed on Wyoming and will continue before the official loss is declared.

The Governor's Brucellosis Coordination Team is meeting on September 16 they are hoping to start the process of having the Brucellosis Eradication Uniform Methods and Rules (UMR) changed.

When the Livestock Board met earlier this week they decided to change the Chapter 2 Brucellosis rule to include the western portion of Park County be added to the surveillance area. Jim Schwartz said California is already imposing sanctions on Wyoming cattle. He asked the Board of Agriculture to write letters to other Departments of Agriculture to circumvent some sanctions.

He also feels the industry needs to work with the Game and Fish to prohibit allowing elk to graze with hobby rancher cattle. Jim Schwartz spoke briefly about some feral hogs within twenty miles of the Wyoming borders and the feral legislation the WLB is proposing. He said they are also proposing eliminating goats, llamas, alpacas, etc. from the brand program. The WLB is also looking at possibly adding mileage charges to the inspections, but the WLB voted it down. They are going to continue looking at ways to improve the efficiency and ways to offset the increase in fuel expenses. Dr. Logan said that staying together as a state will allow Wyoming to have a larger voice and we need to stand strong; not divided. He also said we need to take care of the source of brucellosis and de-populating is not eliminating the source. He said having MOU's with other states would help in not splitting the state.

WBC-Agribusiness Division

Kim Porter handed out some information regarding the new fuel grant. She said it isn't a lot of money, but feels it will help those producers willing to travel to surrounding farmers markets by increasing their income. The program started out with \$20,000 and the amount of the grant is based on their net income.

Intern Presentations

The 2008 summer interns all made presentation to the Board, explaining the projects they worked on and the value of the experience. Jack commended the interns and the work they have done over the four years he's been on the Board.

State Fair Update

James said they have completed the HVAC and electrical upgrades and new carpet to the main office building. The staff was out of the building from mid April until about 2 weeks before fair. The new AC has been installed in Ft. Caspar and Ft. Reno. The Equine Center is completed. He said they anticipate replacing some of the doors in the buildings to help with the rising cost of heating and air conditioning. They anticipate the east side of the livestock building will go to bid

this fall and hope to have it complete by the 09 fair. The electrical upgrades to the campground will begin in the fall. The work on the Directors home will begin with the architect soon.

Issues and Updates

Frank Galey said they are in the planning phase for the level 3 lab.

Boundary Line Issue for Conservation Districts

The Board requested we ask Ken Nelson if the BOA will have to have a hearing if the two districts can't come to a decision. **Jim Bennage made a motion for the Board to appoint two members to meet with the two chairs of the Conservation Districts to try to resolve the issue. He said this would be the order 1 - Resolution between the two boards; 2 - Mediation; and 3 - Action by this Board. The motion was seconded by Juan. Motion carried.**

Gene asked for a volunteer to go with him. Joe Thomas volunteered.

Joe Thomas made a motion to hold the November 3 and 4, 2008 meeting in Casper. The motion was seconded by Jim Bennage. Motion carried.

Jim Magagna thanked the Board of Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture for their help and cooperation they provide to the industry.

Juan made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Patrick. Motion carried.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Hardy, President

Date